

ARTICLES  
TO BE  
ENQUIRED OF,  
AND  
ANSWERED UNTO  
BY

The Church-Wardens and Sworn-men  
in the Visitation of the Right Wor-  
shipful the ARCH-DEACON  
of *Bedford An.Dom.* 1667.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
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University, 1667.



*The Tenor of the Oath of the Church-Wardens,  
and Sworn-men.*

**Y**OU shall Swear, that you, and every  
of you, shall faithfully execute your  
several Offices of Church-wardens  
and Side-men, according to the Kings Ec-  
clesiastical Laws. So help you God and  
the Contents of his Holy Gospel.




Articles



Articles to be enquired of, and answered  
unto by the Church-wardens, Quest-  
men, or Side-men in the Visitation of  
the Right Worshipful the Arch-Deacon  
of Bedford — Anno Domini 1667.

T I T. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and  
Furniture thereunto belonging.*

I.  S your Parish Church or Chappel in good  
and sufficient repair, both for the Roof, *Can. 85.*  
Windows, Floor, and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chap-  
pel, or Steeple been demolished or pulled  
down? what part, and how long since? or any  
of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto for-

merly belonging, any way imbezelled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of stone with a cover? and doth the  
same stand at or near the nether end of your Church, in such man-  
ner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the Baptizing of  
Children? Doth the Minister Baptize publicly onely in the  
Font? Is there a decent Communion-table in your Chancel, *Can. 81.*  
with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of white Linen, to be  
spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Sup-  
per?

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- per? and have you a fair Chalice or Communion-cup, with a Cover,  
 20 and one or more Flagons? have they been profaned by common use?  
 82 4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine  
 83 Service; a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion; a large Bible of  
 80 the last Translation, and a Book of Common-prayer lately publish-  
 Stat. ed, Anno 1662. the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority; and  
 90 a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited,  
 and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical; and a de-  
 58 cent Surplice and Hood?  
 87 5. Have you a Register-book in Parchment of Christenings,  
 70 Burials, and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according  
 to the ancient use?  
 52 6. Have you a Book of Paper, to Record the Names and Li-  
 censes of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church  
 or Chappel? and do such Strangers subscribe their Names? As  
 also a third Book for the Church-wardens accounts? as also a Chest  
 70 with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the  
 aforementioned Furniture?

### T I T. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes  
 belonging to the Church.*

1. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently Fenced, and decently kept?  
 Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any  
 Door into it? and how long since?
2. Is the house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-  
 houses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled  
 down without license? have there been any Encroachments made  
 upon the same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or  
 changed? and by whom?
3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands,  
 Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your  
 C.87. Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-  
 tythes,

## Articles of Visitation.

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tythes, and portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

### TIT. III.

#### Concerning Ministers.

1. **I**S your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*?

2. Hath he been legally instituted and inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two moneths after his induction, publicly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority, and there publicly declare his assent thereunto?

3. Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

4. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? Is he allowed by the *Can. 47.* Ordinary?

5. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith? without either diminishing in regard of Preaching or in any other respect, or adding any thing in the matter or form.

14

6. Doth your Minister at the Reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood?

58

7. Doth he observe the Holy-days and Fasting-days, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Preambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick.

8. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? if so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church

45, 56,

Church

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per? and have you a fair Chalice or Communion-cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons? have they been profaned by common use?

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6. Have you a Book of Paper, to Record the Names and Licenses of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do such Strangers subscribe their Names? As also a third Book for the Church-wardens accounts? as also a Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

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3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your  
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6. Doth your Minister at the Reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood? 58

7. Doth he observe the Holy-days and Fasting-days, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Preambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick.

8. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? if so, doth he constantly 45, 56, (not having a reasonable impediment) Preach one Sermon in your 47.

Church

Church or Chappel every Sunday : or if he be not licensed, or be hindered, doth he procure one to supply his Office by Preaching or Reading one of the Homilies :

Can. 59.

Rubr. before Confirmation.

9. Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop :

67

10. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of death : Doth he Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children :

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11. Hath your Minister Married any persons without publishing the Banns on three Sundays or Holy-days, or hath he Married any in private houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do :

72

12. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophesyings or Exercises not appointed by Authority : Or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided :

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13. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation : or is his carriage in any kinde disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister :

## TIT. IV.

### Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **I**S there any in your Parish that make profession of any other Religion, then what is established in the Church of England?

Art for Uniformity  
1 Q Eliz.

And that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church : If there be any, what are their Names :

C. 109.

2. Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a Common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest : Are there

there



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there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

3. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holy-days follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to Tipple or Game in their houses upon those days?

4. Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church *Can. 13.* or Chappel upon Sundays and Holy-days, and as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their Heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing *18 Rubr.* up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

5. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be Baptized in other Parishes? or are they Baptized after other form then is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer then is allowed? or is there any Infants or more aged persons as yet unbaptized? *Rubr. of Bapt.*

6. Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which *Easter 112* is always to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling, or resort to other Parishes? or do any Strangers come to your Parish-Church to receive it? *Rubr. after Commun. 27, 28.*

7. Are there any in your Parish that be denounced and declared Excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so Excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? *65*

8. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God? or any that being lawfully Divorced have Married again? or any that being lawfully Married, and not Separated or Divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together? *Express in a table set forth by Authority. Anno Dom. 1563.*

9. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick  
B thanks-

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thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

*Rubr.* 10. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter offerings*, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

*Rubr. b.* 11. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any Goods administered without a due grant from the Ordinary? did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

12. Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

*Can. 59.* 13. Do all, and every householder of your Parish, Fathers, Masters, Mothers, and Mistresses, cause their children, servants and apprentices, which have not learn'd their Catechism, to come unto Church on Sundays and Holy-days in the afternoon, obediently to hear, and to be ordered by the Minister till they have learned the same?

### T I T. V.

#### *Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.*

*Can. 91.* 1. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice,

toll

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toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God ?

### T I T. VI.

#### *Concerning School-masters, Schools, Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.*

1. **D**Oth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary ? doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority ? doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon ? Can. 77.  
79.

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery ? or any woman take upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without licence from the Ordinary ?

### T I T. VII.

#### *Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.*

1. **A**Re the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners ? or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners ? Can. 89.

2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel ?

3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

**Y**ou also are to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all *Rubr. as* and every the Offenders in any of the matters mentioned in the *Comman.* precedent Articles, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

F I N I S.